

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 CIAE-00

NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-07 INRE-00 DODE-00 SSO-00 SP-02

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O R 241711Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2538

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5154

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, SS, SP, MO, MR, AG, US

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA

REF: A) STATE 170882; B) MADRID 5024; C) MADRID 5087

1. I PAID A COURTESY CALL JULY 24 ON THE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR WHO HAS JUST COMPLETED HIS FOURTH YEAR IN MADRID. I ASKED HIM WHAT HE COULD TELL ME ABOUT THE ALGERIAN POSITION ON THE SPANISH SAHARA IN LIGHT OF HIS RECENT CALLS ON FRANCO AND FOREIGN MINISTER CORTINA, AND IN LIGHT OF THE APPARENT AGREEMENT WHICH HAD BEEN REACHED BETWEEN MOROCCO, MAURITANIA AND ALGERIA.

2. THE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR SAID THAT ALGERIAN POSITION ON SAHARA HAD BEEN FROM THE BEGINNING AND STILL IS THAT OF FULL SUPPORT OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR SAHARAN PEOPLE. HE RECALLED THAT THIS POSITION HAD BEEN CONSISTENTLY SET FORTH AND THT AS RECENTLY AS JULY 1973 MOROCCO, MAURITANIA AND ALGERIA HAD SIGNED COMMUNIQUE SUPPORTING THIS PRINCIPLE. IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA, IN THEIR FULLY SOVEREIGN RIGHT, HAD CHANGED THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD SELF-  
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DETERMINATION, BUT ALGERIA HAD NOT. AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT

ALGERIA HAD NO TERRITORIAL CLAIMS IN THE SAHARA AND THAT IT CONSIDERED THAT ITS BORDER PROBLEMS WITH MOROCCO WERE SETTLED, EVEN THOUGH MOROCCO HAD NOT YET RATIFIED THE RELATIVE AGREEMENT. ALGERIAN ARMY IS ENGAGED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY IN CIVIL PROJECTS AND ALGERIA ONLY SEEKS REGIONAL COOPERATION WITH ITS NEIGHBORS.

3. ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR CHARACTERIZED PRESENT MOROCCAN ATTACKS ON THE ALGERIAN POSITION AS BEING NEITHER WISE NOR HELPFUL. HOWEVER, IT NO TIME DID THE AMBASSADOR FLATLY STATE THAT THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT BETWEEN MOROCCO AND ALGERIA. HE IMPLIED AS MUCH IN CONTRASTING ALGERIA'S AND MOROCCO'S POSITIONS ON SELF-DETERMINATION, BUT HE LEFT UNSTATED WHAT ALGERIA WOULD DO IF MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA SHOULD TAKE ACTIONS WHICH RUN COUNTER TO SELF-DETERMINATION. HIS ONLY COMMENT WAS THAT IF THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION SHOULD BE THWARTED NOW, A NEW GENERATION WOULD COME ALONG IN SAHARA WHICH WOULD RAISE THE ISSUE AGAIN.

4. REGARDING SPANISH POSITION, AMBASSADOR WAS CRITICAL IN THAT GOS HAD DONE NOTHING UNTIL RECENTLY TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR SELF-DETERMINATION. HE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE IF SPAIN SHOULD PULL OUT BEFORE PROPER ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE FOR THE UN TO CONDUCT A REFERENDUM IN THE SAHARA.  
STABLER

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